

March 6, 2023

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Marley Dixon and I am a 16-year-old 10th grader and a life-long animal lover. I live in Newtown with my family and our four rescue pets. I am a local animal sanctuary youth board member and a national youth council representative for Farm Sanctuary. I urge you to oppose the bear hunt in SB 1148.

I am devastated that the legislature would consider legalizing a hunt of our state's native black bears. Hunting is not the answer to reducing conflicts with bears. Problems can be reduced when bear attractants are removed. This includes removing bird feeders during certain times, protecting beehives and chicken coops with barriers.

There are good solutions to problems with wildlife that involve public education and community based attractant removal.

Please save our bears by opposing SB 1148. Feel free to contact me about this or about helping animals in general.

Marley Dixon
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